

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 (ISO) W

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R 061615Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3606

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, AG, SS, LY, MR

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: GENERAL GIAP MEETS WITH POLISARIO
SECRETARY GENERAL; LIBYA AND MAURITANIA

1. ON MORNING JAN. 6, DRV DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL
GIAP MET WITH POLISARIO SECRETARY GENERAL OUALI IN WHAT
LOCAL NEWS AGENCY TERMED "WORKING SESSION." OUALI SAID
TO HAVE FLOWN IN FROM SAHARA FOR OCCASION. IN
COMMUNIQUE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AFTER MEETING, GIAP SAID
THAT PEOPLE OF DRV FIRMLY SUPPORT SAHARAN PEOPLE IN
STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION. FOR
HIS PART, OUALI SAID THAT HE AND GIAP HAD HAD "PROFOUND
EXCHANGE."

2. IN PRESS STATEMENT JAN. 6, OUALI ANNOUNCED THAT HE
HAD RECENTLY VISITED LIBYA AND HAD MET WITH QUADHAFI AND
OTHER RCC MEMBERS. QADHAFI, HE SAID, HAD TOLD HIM THAT
"THERE IS NO QUESTION OF CHOICE WHEN IT IS QUESTION OF
REVOLUTIONARY FORCES AND PEOPLE STRUGGLING FOR ITS
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INDEPENDENCE."

3. FOREIGN PRESS SOURCE HAS PASSED US FOLLOWING VERSION, GIVEN HIM IN PRIVATE BY POLISARIO STALWART AHMED OULD BABA MISKE, OF MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH'S RECENT VISIT TO TRIPOLI. LIBYANS, MISKE SAID, TOLD OULD DADDAH THAT HE "HAD COME TOO LATE" (APPARENTLY FOR OBTAINING LIBYAN SUPPORT ON SAHARA QUESTION). MISKE ALSO SAID THAT OULD DADDAH HAD INDICATED INTEREST IN WORKING OUT COMPROMISE BETWEEN MAURITANIANS AND POLISARIO IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE FURTHER BLOODSHED. OULD DADDAH ALLEGEDLY ADMITTED SOME MOROCCAN FORCES WERE IN SOUTHERN SAHARA AND MAURITANIA BUT DID NOT THINK THESE WOULD CAUSE PROBLEM FOR GIRM IN REACHING COMPROMISE WITH POLISARIO. MISKE CLAIMED THAT WHEN LIBYANS WONDERED IF MAURITANIANS SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO BARGAIN WITH POLISARIO, OULD DADDAH INDICATED THAT HIS HAND SOON TO BE STRENGTHENED BY FRENCH MIRAGES WHICH HAD BEEN PROMISED TO HIM DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO PARIS.

4. COMMENT: FOREGOING SUGGESTS:

A. GIAP-OUALI MEETING NATURAL BIT OF THEATER FOR ALGERIANS TO STAGE DURING FORMERS' VISIT HERE, WHICH UNROLLING WITH MUCH NEW WARMTH BUT LITTLE SUBSTANCE.

B. IF QADHAFI DID IN FACT MAKE ELLIPTICAL STATEMENT CITED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, IT SUGGESTS THAT LIBYA STILL TRYING TO PURSUE POLICY OF PLEASING BOTH SIDES. ALGERIANS AND POLISARIO CAN TAKE REMARK TO MEAN THAT LIBYANS ARE FOUR SQUARE BEHIND THEM VS. MOROCCANS, BUT ON FACE OF IT, STATEMENT SEEMS LESS THAN EXPRESSION OF TOTAL SUPPORT.

C. RECENT ACCIDENT WHICH MISKE SAYS HE SUFFERED IN SAHARA DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE AFFECTED HIS CAPACITY FOR MANEUVERING WITH PRESS. SIGNS OF WAVERING MAURITANIAN COMMITMENT TO MOROCCO'S SAHARA TAKEOVER ARE EXACTLY WHAT ALGERIA AND POLISARIO ARE SEEKING AND PLANTING THIS IDEA IN FOREIGN JOURNALIST'S MIND IS LOGICAL BIT OF PROPAGANDA WARFARE. SAME TRUE OF REPORT OF FRENCH ARMS TO MAURITANIANS. UNFORTUNATELY FOR MISKE, PLOY DID NOT WORK THIS TIME AS JOURNALIST NOT PLANNING TO USE STORY.
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